

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD

JANUARY 11, 2019 MINUTES

A meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Board was held Friday, January 11, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Members of Committee present: Andrew Cernota
IT Representative
Brian Geraghty
Sally Hyland
Alderman Jette
Ed Lecius
Brian Rhodes, Fire Chief

Members of the Committee absent: Dorothy Clarke, Esquire
Bruce Codagnone, IT Director
Rick Farrenkopf
Alderman Ken Gidge
Jennifer McCormack

Also present: Jeff Poehnert
Pete Johnson

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - None

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Jeff Poehnert

I apologize. I have still not gotten back the minutes yet so I'll have to present then next month.

MOTION BY ED LECIUS TO TABLE THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
MOTION CARRIED

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

PEG MANAGER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Andrew Cernota

Mr. Poehnert would you like to start us off.

Jeff Poehnert

Our current balance of the Operating Account 2505 is \$650,975. Our expenses for December of

2018 including salaries and facility operations totaled \$21,952.

Operations. We had 1,092 cablecasts total in December and of this 18 were live and this broke down to Education 99 – 8, and Government 16 – 10. We had 1,174 playbacks. This broke down to Public 96 - 597; Education 99 - 364 and Government 16 - 213.

We're still waiting for the outcome on the vote for the FCC. In December they did not take up the vote as far as the rule change that we were speaking about last month. Now they're part of this shutdown with the government so they're not going to be taking any action as of this point so we're just going to have to sit tight and wait for that.

Equipment fund approval – hopefully. Over the past several months, we have been having great difficulties with our switching system in the auditorium. It's been in the shop several times and is currently out for repair once again. As the switcher is out of warranty, we've concluded that we need a new switcher by a different company. Because our broadcast pick system has worked flawlessly for almost ten years now in the aldermanic chamber, we're looking to replace the auditorium switcher with an updated version of that switcher but we also are looking at other switchers. So we haven't come up with a final. We want to make sure we go through all the choices we have for different switching systems. It does look like the broadcast pix is in first place right now. It's the updated version of what we have that we're covering right now in here and that's been there for almost ten years and it's been flawless. So the new version seems to be a really good deal. The thing is with the switcher of course all the production elements switch into the switcher so that's the most expensive piece of the whole system. We are asking for an amount not to exceed \$12,000 for the new switcher.

Pete Johnson

Do you want to take that up now or later?

Andrew Cernota

That would be new business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education

Pete Johnson

As far as the Education Channel is concerned for the month of December we were pretty busy with concerts in the schools. You can see there we were at New Searles. We did Fairgrounds chorus here at City Hall with the tree trimming. Sunset Heights, Pennichuck, Nashua South Santa Fund Concert, Elm Street Middle School, Nashua North, and also at Ledge Street Elementary where the schools that were visited this year for their winter/Christmas concerts. At the end of the month, we started back up with some winter sports. Thanks to folks at Bedford Community TV, we were able to piggyback on their live coverage of the BG at Bedford boys' basketball game. On the 27th, 28th, and 29th, we had the Chick-fil-A basketball tournament.

That's a boys and girls tournament here in Nashua and over the three days we did ten basketball games. The guys were a little busy that week. That's it for my report.

I don't know if you want me to read a little bit of Access Nashua. I'm not going to go through the whole thing but I'll get to the meat of it if you want.

- Access Nashua

Pete Johnson

It mentioned that December is typically a slow month with the holidays. With that being said, they were still able to produce 31 in studio shows during the month of December. They did want to mention that they were involved in the program "Celebrate Nashua" that was produced by Yvonne Dunetz. Looking forward to an exciting 2019. That was submitted by Dick Gagnon, Operations Manager for Access Nashua.

**MOTION BY ED LECIUS TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, THE PEG MANAGER'S REPORT, AND ACCESS NASHUA REPORT AS PRESENTED
MOTION CARRIED**

- Education Committee

Ed Lecius

The Education Committee will be resuming our meeting schedule this coming Tuesday. Our last Eye on Education Program featured the three students from South who were the primary students involved in the Meals Matter Program. We'll be setting the agenda for upcoming presentations at our meeting on Tuesday.

Andrew Cernota

Any questions for Mr. Lecius?

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION BY ED LECIUS TO GRANT APPROVAL THE REQUEST FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW SWITCHER FOR THE CITY HALL AUDITORIUM AT A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000.

Unidentified Male Speaker (inaudible)

What does the switcher do?

Jeff Poehnert

Everything is connected. The graphics are connected to it. We don't actually in that room have audio connected. That's separate but all four cameras are connected to it as well. So it switches back and forth to whoever is speaking we go to that camera and it controls it.

Unidentified Male Speaker

Was this equipment replaced as part of the auditorium upgrades four years ago?

Jeff Poehnert

Yes it was.

Unidentified Male Speaker

We're definitely going to go with a different manufacturer then.

Jeff Poehnert

Yes absolutely. Like I said, we haven't made a final decision because there is a couple of other switches we want to look at – a couple other companies that we've dealt with before and good luck. Broadcast Pix is what we use here for this room. For ten years it's been flawless. I mean literally. I just went to a workshop yesterday. What this would be is the upgraded version of what we have and it really is good. People that were there either have the 100 that we have in here and they're about to upgrade or they've already upgraded and they wanted to learn more about the switcher and everybody was happy. That was what I wanted to find out yesterday.

Alderman Jette

Do we have this money? Is it already in our budget and we don't have to go elsewhere to get it?

Jeff Poehnert

No this will be in our budget. It is within our budget so we're good.

Andrew Cernota

Any other questions? Comments?

MOTION CARRIED

REMARKS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - None

REMARKS BY MEMBERS

Andrew Cernota

I actually did want to mention something and it relates to the discussion we had last month

regarding the FCC rule change. It's not specific to that but just kind of a general reminder as far as the nature of our committee. While the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor have delegated certain tasks to us that are not strictly speaking advisory, I just want to remind us that our role is to advise the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor on issues relating in a cable television not necessarily to make policy statements ourselves. In instances where the administration has already made a decision and has already spoken up, there was some discussion about this committee making a separate statement with regard to the FCC rule change. As I say, our role is to advise the City – the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen and not necessarily to make policy statements ourselves or to go outside of that role other than in our support of them. I just wanted to kind of remind everyone as far as what that role is. I realize that over the years other tasks have been delegated to us so we have a little bit more of an administrative or policy decision making role particularly with regard to the Education, Public and Government access channels. It's kind of important to remember the advisory part of our title. That's my comment.

Pete Johnson

I did want to mention since the agenda was put out, the Alliance for Community Media which is an organization that we belong to is going to be sending their President to the New England States on President's week and they're going to be having meetings in each State to discuss what's going on at the FCC and also potential thing going on in front of the Supreme Court right now. That's going to be held in Derry. I believe it's on Thursday the 21st. I don't know the time. We'll have one more meeting before that but if anyone wants to put it in their calendar, you do have to RSVP that you're going to go. I'm just letting you know now.

Alderman Jette

I apologize for not being here last month. We don't have any minutes available yet. Would it be out of order for me to ask you to explain what you just talked about since I wasn't here to hear that?

Andrew Cernota

Certainly. For those that are not familiar with it, we had a discussion last week with regard to a proposed FCC rule change. The end of the comment period being actually the day of our meeting and there was discussion amongst the committee whether we could actually generate a public comment for submission that day. It was my position we didn't have time to do that but I realized that I didn't actually explain why I thought we didn't have time to go through proper channels. I'd also note that at that time the city had already submitted I believe two public comments on the same proposed full change independently of this Committee.

Alderman Jette

When you say the city submitted it...

Andrew Cernota

The administration through the IT Department.

Anything else? If not, is there a final motion?

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ED LECIUS TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Committee Clerk